

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated September 21, 2005, claims 1 and 7 are amended. Claims 1 and 5-7 are now active in this application. No new matter has been added.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al. (USPN 5,828,780) in view of Ito et al. (USPN 5,884,120).

To expedite prosecution, independent claim 1 is amended to delineate, *inter alia*:

An image processing apparatus for processing plural pages of a job to be give to an output device, each page of the plural pages having a predetermined number of sections of standard color space, the image processing apparatus comprising:

a memory for memorizing all of the plural pages of the job;

a decision controller for deciding for each page whether image data included in each section of standard color space are data within a color reproduction range of the output device or not; and

a color compressing controller for ***performing a color compression process uniformly to said each page of the plural pages of image data*** in accordance with the decision of the decision controller so as to supply the processed data to the output device... (Emphasis added)

Independent claim 7 is similarly amended.

The memory/memorizing step now recited in amended independents 1 and 7 is disclosed at page 3, lines 28-29. In particular, referring to Fig. 1, image memory 104 memorizes all image data D1 concerning one output job.

As noted in the previous response, Suzuki et al. is concerned with ***individual object images*** and **NOT plural pages of a job**. The Examiner admits that Suzuki et al. does not “teach an image data comprising plurality of pages” and relies upon Ito et al. as teaching “that an image data comprising plurality of pages.”

However, amended independent claims 1 and 7 require that all pages of a job be memorized in a memory. In Ito et al., only 4 pages of print data are memorized in image memory 31 when a “4 in 1” mode is set. More specifically, when a printing mode is set that 4 images are to be printed on a single sheet, 4 documents/pages are reduced to 1/4 when each document is read (see column 4, lines 32-34 of Ito et al.) and these 4 (reduced) documents/pages are stored in image memory 31 of memory unit 17. There is no disclosure or suggestion that all the documents/pages of a print job are to be stored in image memory 31. Thus, neither Suzuki et al. nor Ito et al. disclose or suggest “a memory for memorizing all of the plural pages of the job”; or “a memorizing step of memorizing all of the plural pages of the job in a memory”.

Also, independent claims 1 and 7 require “performing a color compression process *uniformly to said each page of the plural pages of image data*”. With this unique feature, uniformity can be maintained among all the pages of a job.

As noted also in the previous response, in Suzuki et al., performing the color compression process is determined for an object image and generally includes obtaining the total sum IP of all pixels belonging to divided spaces recognized as within the color reproduction range and computing an inclusion ratio of IP/TP where TP is the total number of pixels in the entire image and compression processing is executed when the inclusion ratio exceeds a preset threshold value Th. No matter how object image is interpreted in Suzuki et al. (a single page or individual objects on a single page), or if the 4 in 1 mode of Ito et al. were applied to the arrangement of Suzuki et al., the compression process (of Suzuki et al.) would be determined and applied for each page *individually*. Uniformity would certainly **NOT** be maintained among pages, as would be the case in the present invention.

Thus, independent claims 1 and 7, as amended, as well as dependent claims 5 and 6, are patentable over Suzuki et al. and Ito et al., considered alone or in combination. Consequently, the allowance of claims 1 and 5-7, as amended, is respectfully solicited.

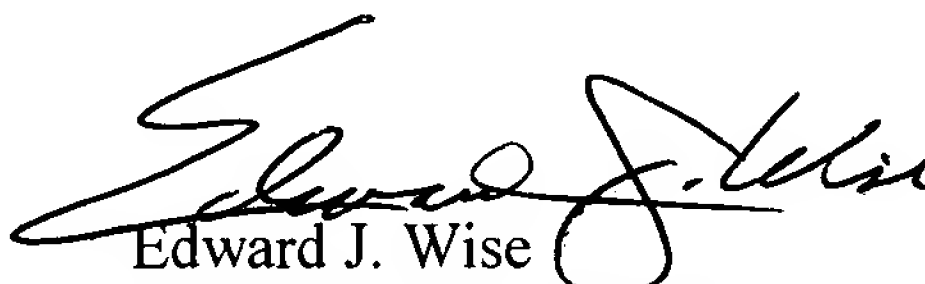
CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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